

THIS WEEK’S MESSAGE

MAY 25TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

AUTHORITY (MARK 1:21–28) AT THE SYNAGOGUE

Jesus’ public ministry is starting. It is the Sabbath, and Jesus begins to teach in the synagogue. His authority disrupts the status quo and the Jewish people are astonished.

- **Our response to Jesus’ teaching reveals who we say Jesus is. Are we only astonished by Jesus? “ASTONISHED”**

There are two primary attributes of Jesus’ teaching that we learn here. He was unlike the other teachers the people were accustomed to (scribes). Jesus taught authoritatively.

- When God’s word is spoken, it is authoritative. **It has an effect on us. It is a declaration of truth.**

UNCLEAN SPIRIT

During Jesus’ teaching, a demon that possessed a man begins to speak. eDemonic spirits do exist. The Bible speaks of their activity regularly.

- **Demons oppose the work of Christ. They distract and blind people from Truth. They confuse and discredit the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4; Acts 16:16–18).**

JESUS’ AUTHORITY

This demon tried to **control the moment** by **distorting the truth** that Jesus is the “Holy one of God!” This is a true statement, however, Jesus did not allow the demon to testify about Him.

- **Jesus displayed His authority and the people realized that Jesus’ power is even over demons.**

OBEDIENCE FROM AN UNLIKELY SOURCE

The demons know who Jesus is. They know the reality of the situation—they must obey creator God. **Spiritual warfare is real but Jesus has authority, and the follower of Christ stands in Jesus’ authority.**

- **Let’s be careful not to see the world through “demonic glasses.”**

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

As Jesus is preaching in the synagogue, a demon tries to distract people from the Kingdom of God.

- **This encounter shows us that the enemy will try to stop the truth from being heard and understood. We also see that Jesus frees us from demonic oppression.**

HEALING (MARK 1:29–34) THE HOME OF SIMON AND ANDREW

The way John Mark writes this section of Scripture reveals that the disciples and Jesus left the synagogue and went straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. They told Jesus about Simon’s mother-in-law immediately.

- **The hasty description implies the disciples desired for Jesus to heal her.**

HEALING PETER’S MOTHER-IN-LAW

Jesus went to her and healed her. Once healed, she served those around her. In the same way, Peter was able to serve Jesus and the work of the gospel without his MIL’s health concerning him.

- **We see Jesus is concerned with His followers’ lives. He provides for our needs.**

HEALING

It is all about Jesus. We have a tendency to assume the idea that Jesus’ presence in our life now means we “should” receive the healing that we “deserve.”

- **As we follow Jesus, we must learn to desire Jesus more than what He can give us. It is about Him, not us.**

HEALING AFTER THE SABBATH

The time of day is important to note; it was after sunset. This means the Sabbath was over and work could begin again. Healing the sick was considered work. Later in Jesus’ ministry, this will become a point of contention. But for now, Jesus heals the masses after the Sabbath is over.

JESUS HEALS MANY

We see a distinction the author makes between the sick and the demon-possessed. The reality is that Jesus has the authority over illnesses and the demons.

- **Jesus reveals the Kingdom of God is meant to be shared with others. Furthermore, it is beneficial to all.**

MORNING (MARK 1:35–45) EARLY THE NEXT DAY

Jesus shows us the key to a relationship with God. Notice how Jesus did it.

- “While it was still dark”: Inconvenient
- “He got up”: Intentional effort
- “A deserted place”: limited distractions
- “Praying”: Talked with God the Father.
- **Alone time with God is not always convenient or easy, but always vital.**

JESUS CAME TO PREACH

Jesus just got done healing a whole town of people. After these events, He tells the disciples that He must move on to continue to preach. Jesus knew that the most important “work” He could do was to preach the Kingdom of God.

- **Preaching the Kingdom of God was Jesus’ primary focus.**

THE LEPER

Jesus healed many others and drove out more demons throughout this entire region. Then the author zooms in on a specific encounter with a man with leprosy.

- This man broke the law as it relates to leprosy. This man did this for a chance to be near Jesus and to be healed.

SUBMISSION TO JESUS’ AUTHORITY

There is no “formula” or magic word that brings about healing. This man approaches Jesus on his knees, begging Jesus to heal him. This leper says nothing magical but professes submission to the authority of Jesus—“If you are willing...”

- **This man reveals a key about healing: Our trust must not be dependent on the outcome of our request, but in Christ alone.**

AFTER HEALING

Right after Jesus changes everything, we go and do exactly what He told us not to do. Praise God for His patience and mercy.

- We are unsure if the man ever went to the priest to present himself (as was the custom). However, **we learn that Jesus desired the healed man to do this to be a testimony to the priest. His healing was for others to see. The Kingdom is to be shared.**

ASTONISHED

- Jesus’ authority was powerful. What Jesus can do is amazing. His authority and power change everything—situations and circumstances. He is miraculous.
- Jesus is shocking. He draws the crowds. People respond positively to what Jesus can do when it benefits what they want.
- **Are we looking at Jesus to wow us or save us?**

HOW DO WE SEE JESUS?

- We enjoy responding to what Jesus can do for us. We want a change of circumstance, but we have a hard time realizing that Jesus is not here to do what we want.
- His primary focus was on preaching.
- Jesus does not always change our circumstances, but who Jesus is will always change who we are, regardless of our circumstance.

JESUS CHANGES US

- Many love what Jesus can do, but as soon as He asks something of us, like “Follow me,” it is too hard.
- **After all the work and the crowds, Jesus got up early at an inconvenient time and prayed.**
- Jesus made time to be with His Father in the midst of the work and the busyness. **Are we making time to be in the presence of Jesus?**
- Jesus makes us more like Him for our own good and also others’. **Do we want to change?**